



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Transportation Committee
From: CMAP staff
Date: July 2015
Re: Strategy paper development process

Part of the development process for the next long-range plan is a series of strategy papers developed on transportation, land use, natural resources, and other topics. Similar [GO TO 2040 strategy papers](#) were also prepared during that plan development process. Each strategy paper will provide agency direction on new topics or explore refinements to existing plan recommendations. Within the transportation area, a typical strategy paper would define the strategy, describe its potential benefits and drawbacks, and characterize the opportunity for implementing it (or increasing its use). Staff expects to develop four strategy papers on transportation topics in the current fiscal year, with another set potentially to be developed in the following fiscal year. This memo follows up on committee discussions with a list of topics to be pursued this year. Staff is also seeking direction on a remaining paper topic.

Committee feedback

During the discussion at the Transportation Committee in May, positive feedback was received on three of the first four initial paper topics suggested by staff:

1. Asset management
2. Alternative transportation system funding concepts
3. Highway operations / advanced traffic management
4. Transit modernization

However, no comments were received from members on the proposed transit modernization paper. Staff is proposing to prepare papers on the first three topics enumerated above and is seeking more direction from the TC on the fourth paper to be prepared this fiscal year.

During the May meeting, members also brainstormed additional topics. These are as follows, with staff's recommendations on how to accommodate them:

- **Vehicle technology.** The discussion at TC focused on connected vehicle technology and the intelligent transportation system (ITS) components needed. Likewise, a similar paper was suggested by several members of the Regional Transportation Operations Coalition (RTOC), focusing on the infrastructure requirements for connected vehicles. Staff proposes to address at least some aspects of this topic in the highway operations paper.
- **Ridesharing, ridesourcing, and other “sharing” modes.** Members suggested this topic particularly as a potential solution to the “last mile” problem with transit, but it was also noted that the sharing economy was not as advanced during GO TO 2040 development as it is now. Thus, this could be an additional strategy paper, either in the current fiscal year or the next.
- **Transportation investment and economic development.** Members discussed the claims often made regarding the effects of transportation projects on job growth and other economic development indicators. Staff proposes to build a review of empirical studies on the transportation/economic development connection into the [FY 16 CMAP work plan project “Improvement of Economic and Environmental Analysis Tools”](#) and report to TC on the findings in spring 2016.
- **Pedestrian access and safety.** Discussion on this topic focused on the Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way and the fiscal realities of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance as well as on general needs for improved pedestrian accessibility. Staff proposes to consider any significantly increased costs associated with ADA requirements in the financial plan. However, a broader investigation into pedestrian access and safety is a possible strategy paper topic, either in the current fiscal year or the next.

Other committees have suggested transportation topics as well. At the Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting in May, attendees suggested that paratransit needed a serious discussion in the next plan and also recommended a closer look at the role of private funding in transportation. At the June MPO Policy Committee meeting, the need for additional investigation into public-private partnerships (PPPs) was also discussed. Staff proposes to address the comments on PPPs by considering potential policy stances on PPPs in the “alternative transportation system funding concepts” paper. Paratransit would need to be addressed through a separate strategy paper, either in the current fiscal year or the next.

Resource groups

To aid in preparing the papers, “resource groups” will be formed for each topic comprising select members of the TC, other topic area experts from TC members’ agencies, and potentially other key stakeholders as appropriate to the topic (with the exception that no resource group beyond the TC itself will be formed for the alternative transportation system funding concepts paper.) Ideally the newly-formed groups would have 10 – 15 members. The working groups would meet as needed for 6 – 12 months to discuss potential directions for the region under each topic and review interim memos. The groups’ work will culminate in a strategy paper, at which point the purpose of the group will be reassessed. CMAP staff will be contacting TC members over the next month or so to identify appropriate members for the groups.

Action requested: Discussion